

#### REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5 and 9-21 have been objected to. Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3, 5, and 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer. Claims 13-17 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the rejection of claim 1, claim 1 has been amended to limit the invention to sensors being located on a moving machine. The word "moving" has been added before the word "machine" to emphasize the fact that the sensors are located on the exterior surface of a moving machine. In addition the passage "the machine operating while in either mode of moving and stationary" has been deleted.

With this amendment, the invention is clearly distinguished from the prior art. No prior art document discloses a sensor on the surface of a moving machine.

In the Meyer reference the vibration sensor is located on the stationary support structure. See line 55 and 56 of column 2.

The idea of mounting sensors on a moving machine such as a rotating machine was not previously contemplated because the natural instinct was to presume that information sensed by the sensor would be adversely affected by the severe operating environment and the direct contact with vibration events occurring

within the machine. It was also considered that sensors would not be rugged enough to withstand being located on the surface of a moving machine. Surprisingly, when a sensor was located on the surface of a moving machine it was discovered that a great deal more information could be obtained about events occurring within the machine than previously realized. Thus, information about the number of mechanical events occurring within the machine over a predetermined period of time could be ascertained along with the amplitude of the mechanical events occurring over this time and positional data relating to the position of the mechanical events occurring within the machine. This resulted in data being gathered which could be graphically represented to reveal a treat deal about what was going on within the machine and how this affected operation of the machine.

With regard to claim 12, claim 12 has been combined with allowable claim 13. Dependent claims 14 to 17 have been amended so that they are dependent upon the newly combined claim 12 and claim 13.

Claims 18 to 21 remain in their current form as they have been allowed by the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for

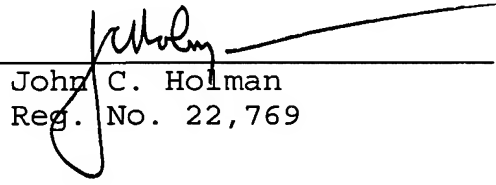
allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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